

Reporter

ST. CHARLES COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Office Loses MDC Presence

Perry Eckhardt of the Missouri Department of Conservation has accepted a new position within the agency following department restructuring. Eckhardt has taken on the duties of Urban Forester at the Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood and will serve St. Louis City and Jefferson, St. Louis and Washington counties.



Perry Eckhardt

Eckhardt joined NRCS and SWCD staff in the St. Peters USDA office eight years ago as an MDC Community Conservationist. His assistance to the district was enhanced by his knowledge of water resources, stormwater issues and stream dynamics.

Eckhardt made great strides in communicating to the public the importance of low impact development strategies, conservation development, stormwater management and the protection of area waterways. He worked closely with municipal leaders to guide them in developing ordinances to promote Conservation Design and Green Space Preservation for the city of Weldon Spring. In addition, he spearheaded two Low Impact Development (LID) tours for county municipal leaders and developers, and has written a number of articles for the Department of Conservation. Eckhardt had become a speaker-in-demand for topics ranging from rain gardens to streamside erosion.

In addition, Eckhardt has been an instructor and writer for the St. Louis Regional Envirothon, and he is the author of the six-part fact sheet series, *Peruque Creek Watershed Management*, which is an educational outreach tool. He accompanied district employees on homeowner erosion calls, and provided a wealth of information for both district employees and county citizens.

Eckhardt is a champion for Missouri native plants, and has worked with many groups to remove non-natives and plot the reintroduction of native flora. He has shown equal enthusiasm for Missouri's streams and rivers, and again has worked with many groups to help commercial and private sectors develop habits to protect our waterways.

Eckhardt has established a portfolio of Missouri native plants, insects and critters, and LID practices, all of which can be accessed by the public on his Flickr photo sharing site: www.flickr.com/photos/perryeck.

While the specific focus of his work has now changed from community conservation to urban forestry, Eckhardt is sure to apply the same enthusiasm that made him such a vital part of the natural resource conservation efforts of the employees in the St. Peters office.



Hubert Mallinckrodt: Always Good For a Story

Every community is full of stories and characters, events and happenings that add flavor and spice to an area. Through the Farm Feature articles we have met farmers with strong feelings about their communities, their politics, their faiths. We have met farmers who've fought floods all their lives, who've been on television shows and who've held interesting second jobs to supplement the farm income. We have farmers who are war heroes, farmers who are world travelers, some who've given their lives to volunteering and helping others, some who have been school teachers. Many of our farmers have struggled through difficult and lean times, and we have some who've become quite wealthy.

Whatever the circumstances, a visit with one of our St. Charles County farmers is always interesting. So when we asked Hubert Mallinckrodt (Hubie) to allow us a visit, he chuckled that there wasn't a whole lot about his life that was interesting, but if I enjoyed listening to stories then I should come on out.

Like so many Augusta families, the Mallinckrodt's had farmed the same hills and lowlands for hundreds of years.....and though their individual stories span many decades, their tales are timeless.

Take for example a theme that runs through the stories of all our bottomland farmers—generations of flood stories....stories of heroism and heartbreak, of disbelief and yet determination.....as these families continued to rebuild generation after generation. This, too, is Hubie's story.

Hubie was born in 1933, son of Augusta farmers Hubert and Olga (Bruggemann) Mallinckrodt, and younger brother of Anita Mallinckrodt, who is a published author and historian. (see sidebar)

"Our ancestors came to Augusta in the mid 1800s," Hubie said. "They were called Latin Farmers



Hubie and Ellen Mallinckrodt



NRCS and SWCD employees in the St. Louis County, St. Charles County and Lincoln County field offices received awards of merit for "effective teamwork in providing quality conservation program assistance to landowners and farm operators during fiscal year 2009". The awards were presented by State Conservationist J.R. Flores.

Pictured in the back row from left are: Janice Cragen, Lincoln County SWCD District Clerk; Mark Palm, Lincoln County NRCS Resource Conservationist; Jerry Weinrich, Lincoln County SWCD Technician; Larry Ferris, NRCS Soil Technician; Charlie Perkins, St. Charles County SWCD Technician; and Jeff Esely, Lincoln County MDC Private Lands Conservationist.

Front row from left are: Renee Cook, NRCS District Conservationist; Frankie Coleman, St. Charles County SWCD District Manager; Shawn Keller, NRCS Resource Conservationist; Theresa Dunlap, St. Charles County SWCD Info/Ed; J.R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist; and Curtis Hoeft, NRCS Soil Conservationist.

Not pictured is Jennifer Lewis, St. Louis County SWCD District Manager.

Farm Feature

Hubie Mallinckrodt, recalls a life intertwined with the Missouri River and reveals a love/hate relationship with the Big Muddy.



because they really had no farming background and were actually teachers."

Those ancestors, though, used their education backgrounds to educate themselves in the role of farmers and set to work in the fertile hills establishing orchards, expanding their families and putting down deep roots.

Hubie's great-grandfather Conrad and great-uncle Julius both owned land on the bluffs as well as several hundred acres of fertile bottomland. They were among the farmers in the area whose land ownings were extended due to accretion—the Missouri River changing its channel southward. Accretion was a good thing for these new American farmers, but we have to wonder if they thought just how tough it would be for themselves

and for generations of their children to futilely fight the ever-powerful and unpredictable Missouri.

Whatever their thoughts, it is clear that Hubie's grandfather, Albert, truly loved the river and even after selling most of his property to his sons, kept 27 acres in a one mile long and very narrow strip that allowed him to walk on his own property all the way down to the river. Hubie's dad, Hubert, was one of the brothers who purchased part of the land and set about farming. They bought 135 acres of the bottom ground around 1915.

"Less than half of it was tillable," Hubie said. "The rest was huge cottonwood trees. Mother and Dad started out in a log home with no foundation, but by 1925 had built a new home. Dad scraped up a mound of dirt to raise the house above usual flood levels, but then also included a full basement—which many times became an indoor aquarium. And so then was one more thing to clean up after a flood."

And within the next ten years, the two children were born, and the family began their first of many evacuations of the house due to flooding.

"It's interesting that the whole country was burning up in the 1930s (referencing the Dust Bowl era), and in 1935 we had 15 inches of the Missouri in our home. That is just an example of how fickle the Missouri River can be."

Fickle or fearsome, the river continued to hassle the bottom ground Augusta families.

One particular flood stands out in Hubie's mind. In the '40s, his uncle convinced Hubie's dad to grow Navy Beans. Beans were needed for the Army, and the pay was great—\$12 a bushel. His dad had no experience with beans, but soon had the crop planted using a corn planter. As harvest time neared, Hubert employed the help of a local blacksmith to design and create a harvester.

"It was a sled with two

Besides being Hubie's sister, Anita Mallinckrodt is the author of "From Knights to Pioneers", a book that follows the history of the Mallinckrodt family from 1240 through their migration to the United States and, settling in Augusta in 1832.

Anita is also the Augusta town historian.

See Mallinckrodt, pg. 3

New Grazing Publication Available

“Extending Grazing and Reducing Stored Feed Needs” is a new publication written by Don Ball, Auburn University; Ed Ballard, retired from the University of Illinois; Mark Kennedy of NRCS in Missouri; Dr. Garry Lacefield of the University of Kentucky; and Dr. Dan Undersander at the University of Wisconsin.

The authors, who collectively have almost 150 years of experience working with livestock producers, agree that feeding animals when forage is unavailable is the greatest expense associated with livestock operations.

While the best techniques to reduce stored feed needs vary with geographic region, type of farming operation, and other factors, this publication outlines strategies that can be used to extend grazing and increase profit.

If you would like a copy of this publication, call or stop by the St. Charles County Soil and Water District office, 636-922-2833, ext. 3. The office is located at 160 St. Peters Centre Blvd., St. Peters Mo.

Mission: Clean Stream is March 27

Saturday, March 27, hundreds of volunteers across the county will don work gloves and boots and set out into the creeks, streams and lakes in the area, picking up trash.

Last year, roughly 500 volunteers pulled over 27,700 pounds of trash from Dardenne, Peruque, Belleau, Spencer and Cole Creeks in a little over two hours.

Greenway Network has gotten creative with the objects pulled from the creeks. The Stream Trash ART (START) project, created by project director Ralph Rollins, salvages metal pulled from the streams and uses it to create eco-art. Local artists will be working at some of the lunch sites on the 27th.

The day will start at 8:30 a.m., with registration at one of the five rendezvous locations listed below. Volunteers should dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring gloves. Transportation is not provided. Breakfast or lunch will be served depending on location.

This community-wide event is sponsored by Greenway Network, Inc., Missouri Stream Team, Cee Kay Supply, Inc., Wal-Mart, and the communities of Dardenne Prairie, Cottleville, Wentzville, Lake St. Louis, O’Fallon and St. Charles.

Pre-registration was desired, but interested volunteers can still call the numbers below to see where they can help.

- Dardenne Prairie: 636-561-1718, meeting at Barat Haven Trailhead
- Cottleville: 636-498-6565, x203, meeting at City Hall
- Wentzville/Lake St. Louis: 636-332-9236, meeting at Quail Ridge Park
- O’Fallon: 636-379-5408, meeting at Westhoff Park
- St. Charles: 636-949-3237, meeting at City Hall Parking Garage

Regional Grazing Schools for 2010

All landowners/operators wishing to participate in the DSP-3 Grazing Practice need to attend a grazing school. The fastest way to find one near you, is to log on to the following website:

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/mfgc/schools.htm>

Mary S. Burt Envirothon Scholarship Offered for 2011-2012 School Year

The Mary S. Burt Envirothon Scholarship Fund committee is finalizing the criteria and requirements for the scholarship and plan to make it available to college bound Envirothon students for the 2011-2012 school year.

The committee will continue to raise funds for this unique scholarship, which not only honors Mary Burt, long-time District Manager of the St. Charles County SWCD, but also will assist an Envirothon student in pursuing a goal toward a natural resource related field of employment.

Mary passed away last November after a long illness. The Envirothon was dear to Mary’s heart, and she was a true champion for the eager students who participated.

If you would like to donate to the Mary S. Burt Scholarship Fund, you may send a check to Peggy Lemons at 1209 Biscayne Dr., Jefferson City, Mo. 65109.

Stormwater Runoff—Everyone’s Responsibility

The topic for this year’s Soil and Water Stewardship Week is Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats. The district will be reaching out to youngsters in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades to educate them about good conservation habits and how activities in the environment affect the habitats of all living things.

With this in mind, all residents—children and adults alike—can think about how their behaviors are affecting the habitats in their communities. Perhaps individuals can have the biggest impact by controlling the stormwater runoff that comes from their properties. There are many ways to do this. For example rain gutters can be directed into rain barrels so the water can be used elsewhere in the yard as needed. Runoff can also be directed to rain gardens, shallow depressions sculpted to enhance the beauty of the yard while showcasing water loving plants and providing habitat for insects, frogs and other animals.

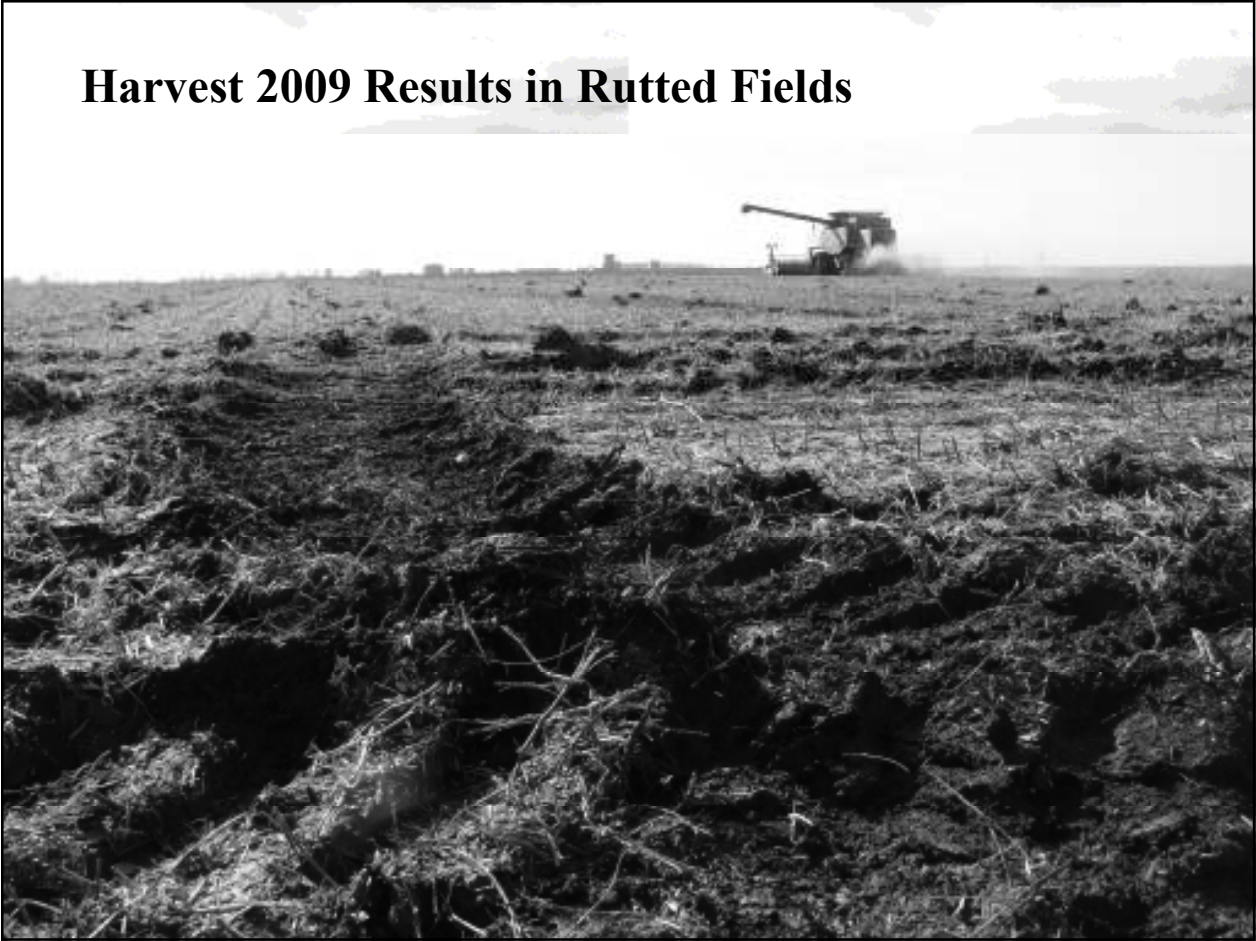
Part of the District’s outreach efforts include conveying the message that we all have important roles in the environment. Some points to remember are:



Key Points We Want Citizens To Know:

- Everything you have comes from the soil. (It’s interesting to see how everyday objects can be traced back to healthy soil) Healthy soil = successful society
- Everyone lives in a watershed (a watershed is all the land surface that drains to a common water feature)
- Everything you do in the watershed has the potential to harm both ground water and surface water.
- There is a limited supply of productive soil on earth.....and it takes more than 500 years for topsoil to form naturally.
- All the water on earth is all that there ever was and all that will ever be. (Kids like to hear that they may be drinking recycled dinosaur pee)

Stormwater is the biggest pollutant of our streams, rivers and lakes. Stormwater carries pesticides, nutrients from animal waste, litter and other pollutants directly into our waterways, harming aquatic life and posing threats to humans. Keeping bare soil covered in your yard, redirecting stormwater runoff to useful purposes on your land, diligently picking up litter and cleaning up after pets—all will go a long way in protecting our limited water resources.



Claude Boschert Farm
Wet weather plagued the 2009 Harvest, causing many farmers to weigh rutting up their fields against losing portions of the crops. Claude Boschert’s soybean field shows the deep ruts that plagued many county farms after the harvest. Continued wet weather and soggy fields have made ruts a serious issue this year.

Variance for Special Problems — Field Ruts

Landowners/Operators must maintain their Approved Conservation Systems during planting time, despite the rutted fields. The NRCS District Conservationist can grant a variance for special problems, such as weather related ruts, and allow the farmer to till prior to planting and avoid noncompliance of highly erodible land provisions. The variance must be requested prior to beginning field work. Contact FSA or NRCS at 636-922-2833 if you need assistance.

“Next to the air itself, land and water are our most important resources.”
D.A. Williams, SCS, 1967

Mallinckrodt, from pg. 1

knives on the front, forming a ‘v’. The knives worked perfectly cutting the bean plants and dropping them gently along the rows. The kids had the job of putting the beans in little piles using a pitchfork because a rake would shatter the beans. Father had a threshing machine and the neighbors came over to help. All those beans were in neat little piles when I left for school and the threshing was to begin. When I came home from school it was raining and the threshing crew was standing in the shed just waiting. But it kept on raining. One week later there was 12 feet of water where the threshing machine was. We lost the whole crop.”

“We moved out of our house seven times between 1940 and 1951,” he explained. “In 1951, we had the granddaddy of all floods and decided we’d finally had enough of it. In eleven years, we raised only 2 1/2 crops.”

The river not only affected their livelihood, but had influence over other decisions the family made. Hubie’s mother, a very spirited person, knew that she was raising two equally spirited children. With the river sometimes lapping at their porch, their mother thought it wise that the children develop a fear of the river. She did not allow their father to teach them to swim, because she knew the children would try their skill against the river. Neither of the children ever learned to swim.....and obviously neither was drowned in the river.

The Hubert Mallinckrodt family was the very last hold-out of all the families who had homes in the Augusta bottoms.

“We darn near got webs between our toes,” Hubie laughed.

Years passed and Hubie graduated high school and went to Kansas to work the wheat harvest. But once again the river intruded and influenced his life direction. “I was in Kansas one month, when the river came up and I had to come home to help dad.”

Hubie was drafted into military service in 1953, narrowly missing service in Korea, but was stationed in Germany and was discharged in 1955. He married his wife, Ellen, upon his return home, and then enrolled in the agriculture department at Mizzou. Soon after, Ellen gave birth to their first son, and Hubie quit school and began farming fulltime. Ellen eventually went to work as a secretary for Augusta Elementary where she remained in that position for 25 years.

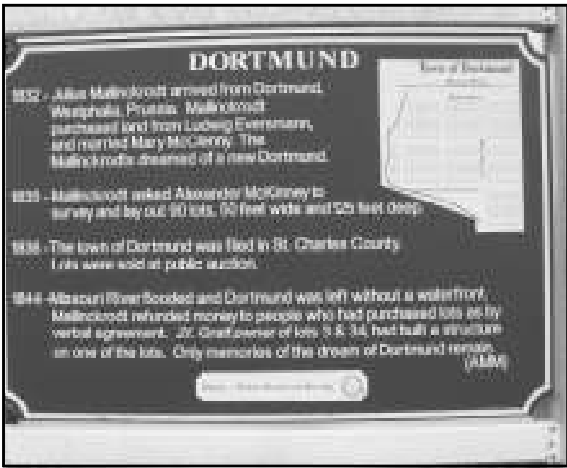
The couple have three grown children: Brent, who heads the psychology department at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Craig, who is a statistician for Eli Lilly in Indiana; and Lisa, an elementary

teacher in Ashland, Mo. There are seven grandchildren

Hubie and Ellen farmed until 1965 when they sold the farm to a neighbor who wanted to increase his property size and avoid encroachment by developers. Today, he and Ellen live on one acre, not far from his boyhood bottomland farm. His hunting and cattle operation is from the “home place” of his father.

Not far either from Ellen’s childhood home. She grew up in the log cabin that now serves as a sales office for Augusta Shores. Hubie said the cabin was drug by oxen out of the Darst bottom to keep it from falling into the river.

“It was hard on our ancestors to settle this area and not be affected by the river. In the end, the river is still the boss.”



One Last Mallinckrodt Tidbit

The above historical marker identifies the location at the corner of Augusta Bottom and Schell Roads where the town of Dortmund was to be established.

Dortmund, Westphalia, Prussia was the homeland of Hubie Mallinckrodt’s great-uncle, Julius Mallinckrodt, who settled his family in Augusta in 1832. The hopeful immigrant must have longed for friends, family, and the circumstances of his beloved homeland because, as so many immigrants did, Julius set about establishing a town reminiscent of, and named after, the homeland. So new Dortmund was to be a prosperous town on the banks of the Missouri River where transportation and the movement of goods was ideal. In 1836, the town of Dortmund was filed in St. Charles County and lots were sold at public auction.

In 1844, the Missouri River flooded and the town was left without a waterfront, ending the dream of a new Dortmund.

obtain a CSP contract, including: being listed as the operator or owner/operator in the USDA Farm Service Agency farm records management system for the operation being offered for enrollment; documenting that they control the land for the term of the 5 year contract and include all eligible land in their entire operation in that contract; complying with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions; and complying with Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

For more information, contact NRCS at 636-922-2833, ext. 3.

Federal Stimulus Money aimed at “Energizing” Missouri Agriculture

In an effort to help farmers move toward more energy efficient and profitable operations, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Natural Resources’ Energy Center is using a potion of the Recovery Act funding to develop a \$3 million energy efficiency cost-share grant program under *Energize Missouri Agriculture*.

This state-wide program will assist farmers with energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. **Up to 75% of the equipment and hardware cost of an energy saving project can be funded by the grant, with a limit of \$5,000 per applicant.** Labor costs will not be covered by the grant funds.

- Eligible projects and systems include:
- Solar powered systems (pumps, panels, pipe, tanks and solar powered fencers)
 - Insulated waterers
 - Global Positioning System, or GPS, guidance systems
 - Irrigation Improvements (flow meters, pulse irrigator, drip irrigation system, irrigation nozzle replacement, pipe upgrade, tier 3 engines)
 - Dairy facility improvements (variable frequency drives, variable speed drives, improved refrigeration efficiency, heat reclaimers, high volume low speed fans, compressed air improvements)
 - Swine and poultry facility improvements (high volume, low speed fans)
 - Upgrade or new grain dryers
 - Lighting upgrades, motion sensors or timers
 - Conservation tillage equipment
 - High efficiency electric motors
 - Biomass furnaces/boilers for other than poultry houses

The above projects have been designated by DNR as “likely to qualify”, but they are also looking for new and innovative energy saving projects.

Farmers who think they may have an eligible practice can fill out an application online at the department’s web page: www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/EnergizeMissouriAgriculture

Forms are also available at the St. Charles County Soil and Water District office at 160 St. Peters Centre Blvd., in St. Peters.

Application forms will be received in the Energy Center until April 20, 2010, at which time they will be put before a technical review committee, and eligible farm operators will be notified.

Anyone requiring assistance or more information should call the Missouri Energy Center at 800-361-4827.

Conservation Stewardship Program Sign-ups Continue

Farmers and Landowners are encouraged to investigate the benefits of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) which is administered by the USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).CSP is a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones.

Financial and technical assistance are provided to farmers who qualify. The estimated range of payments are: Cropland—\$12 to \$22 per acre; Private Forestland—\$6 to \$12; and Pastureland—\$7 to \$14 per acre.

Applicants must meet several requirements to

District Poster Contest Focused on Healthy Habitats

The theme this year, both for the district poster contest and Soil and Water Stewardship Week (April 25—May 2), is Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats.

The basic message is that each of us can be good stewards of natural resources by developing positive habits that benefit the environment. Each person can make a difference by protecting and managing the resources in their own backyard habitat.

Conservation is careful management of the environment, and habits are behaviors that are repeated so often that it becomes typical of somebody, although the person may be unaware of it. A “conservation habit” may be as simple as never littering.

Habitats are all around us, and can be as tiny as a drop of water and all the microscopic life within...or as huge as a rainforest and the abundance of life of all sizes. Whatever the habitat, living organisms all need the same things—food, shelter, water and space to live. People, plants, and animals all need each other.....and they all need clean water, air and soil.

The district has invited St. Charles County youth in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades to participate in the poster contest. The contest opened March 2 and will close April 6, with winners announced by April 15. While many schools make the contest a class project, any child in 4th, 5th or 6th grade is welcome to participate.

If you know a child who would be interested, please contact Theresa Dunlap at 636-922-2833, ext. 3.



County Supports SWCD Activities

Many of the activities of the Soil and Water District are made possible through the added support of St. Charles County government. Together with county employees, SWCD employees plan workshops, outreach materials and events to reach citizens with the important message: We all live in a watershed, and all of us are responsible for protecting local water resources.

Upcoming workshops include a Conservation Development Workshop and a Soils Education For Teachers Workshop.



Reporter

ST. CHARLES COUNTY

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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St. Peters, MO 63376-1695

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Teams Compete at St. Louis Regional Envirothon; Parkway North and Eureka Teams Head to State Competition



Parkway North High School's Team B took top honors at the Regional Envirothon March 8.

Thirteen High School Teams gathered at the Busch Conservation Area March 8 for the Annual St. Louis Regional Envirothon Competition.

Teams competed in various natural resource-related areas, including soils, aquatics, wildlife, forestry and a current issue, this year Groundwater.

The top three teams will continue on to the Missouri State Envirothon to be held at the Runge Nature Center on April 13. From that contest, a top Missouri team will be designated and will represent the state at the National Competition in California this summer.



Eureka High Schools Teams A and B took second and third places at the St. Louis Regional Envirothon March 8. Team B, above, placed third. Team A, below, placed second.



St. Charles County
Soil & Water Conservation District
160 St. Peters Centre Boulevard
St. Peters, MO 63376-1695
636-922-2833, ext. 3

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Theresa Dunlap, Info-Ed Specialist

NRCS Personnel

Renee Cook, District Conservationist
Shawn Keller, Soil Conservationist
Curtis Hoeft, Soil Conservationist
Jerry Busch, Soil Conservation Technician

Missouri Department of Conservation Personnel

Perry Eckhardt, Community Conservationist

The mission of the Soil & Water Conservation District is to conserve the soil and water resources of the county; promote the wise use of these resources through education; protect residents from undue hardship caused by erosion, sedimentation and flooding; protect the agricultural soil base to ensure continued productivity; and preserve the quality of water and water courses within the county.

Garden on the Contour

Home vegetable and flower gardens should be contoured to reduce erosion. Its good for your plants and good for your neighboring streams.

For information on how to keep
your property safe from wildfires,
log onto firewise.org